United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1275
23 November 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, says Iraq has only "selectively and then partially" complied with obligations under resolution 687 (1991); Council addressed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz; Director General of IAEA, Hans Blix; Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus; Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson; and Special Rapporteur Max van der Stoel.

+ Latest face-to-face talks between leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus did "not meet expectations", overall framework agreement "did not materialize", says Secretary-General.

+ Despite cease-fire, heavy fighting reported in Sarajevo yesterday and today; Mixed Military Group scheduled to meet today.

+ Secretary-General requests former Norwegian ambassador, Tom Vraalsen, to undertake mission to South Africa to assess how United Nations contribution to peace process can be enhanced.

+ Voter registration campaign in Cambodia passing 2 million mark today, according to United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia.

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The Security Council has concluded that Iraq so far "only selectively and then partially" has complied with the obligations placed upon it by the Council under resolution 687 (1991). The decision was contained in a statement read out by the Council President at a meeting this morning to review Iraq's compliance with its obligations under that resolution and to consider the repression in Iraq.

In his statement, Council President André Erdos of Hungary said he hoped today's meeting would prove a valuable opportunity to impress once again on Iraq "the imperative need for full compliance" and to obtain commitments which would be in the interest of world peace and security, as well as that of the Iraqi people. While noting that "progress has been made in the implementation of section C of the resolution", the statement also said that "much remains to

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be done". In particular, Iraq needed to provide full, final, and complete disclosure of all aspects of its programmes for weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a greater range than 150 kilometres.

With regard to the human rights situation in Iraq, the Council expressed deep concern "at the grave human rights abuses ... the Government of Iraq continues to perpetrate against its population, in particular in the northern region of Iraq, in southern Shi'a Centres and in the southern marshes", as confirmed by reports by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission.

The Council expressed particular concern at "the reported restrictions on the supplies ... of food and fuel, which have been imposed by Iraq on the three northern governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniya". In that regard, it said, "inasmuch as the repression of the population continues, the threat to internaitonal peace and security in the region ... remains".

Among those addressing today's Council meeting, Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, said his Government had destroyed 9,983 pieces of weapons, including equipment which could have been spared for civilian and industrial use. In spite of this, he said, the status of the embargo imposed on Iraq remained unchanged and the Iraqi people continued to suffer from dire shortage of food and medicine.

"No matter what Iraq does in fulfilment of the obligations imposed upon it by resolution 687, the unjust sentence past by the Council to starve the people of Iraq and deny them the right to life remains in place", Mr. Aziz said. The Council was refusing to deal with Iraq in accordance with international law, the United Nations Charter, the rules of morality, and the text of resolution 687 itself, he said.

Hans Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that while Iraq had provided much information to the Agency, "decisions have been taken at a political level in Iraq not to provide key procurement information", Mr. Blix said. He concluded that in that important area there was "no full, final and complete disclosure". In fact, he said, there was "hardly any disclosure".

Mr. Blix called for continued on-site inspection of designated sites due to Iraq's unwillingness so far to reveal foreign sources of equipment, material and technology.

Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, told the Council that eight months ago, he had reported "an impasse" in the Commission's work. Since March this year, he said, "this has been yet again and even more forcefully confirmed". Iraq had consistently refused to acknowledge its obligations and had still not provided the full disclosure of all aspects of its weapons programmes, as called for by the Council.

Iraq claimed that it had destroyed all records and documents relating to proscribed activities under resolution 687, Mr. Ekeus said. But the Commission found it nearly "inconceivable that Iraq spent billions of dollars

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and years of research on its programmes and that it has now destroyed every record of those programmes". Without supporting authentic documentation, he said, it was not possible to substantiate the information supplied by Iraq.

Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said that for the success of the "important and complex" humanitarian relief operation, it was now essential to have both the cooperation of the Iraqi Government and the financial support of Member States.

While the focus had been on the situation in the north, there were urgent needs in other parts of the country, not least in the south, where the situation in the health and sanitation sectors was particularly serious. "From the United Nations' side", he said, "we count on continued cooperation for the duration of the programme from the Government of Iraq, on such matters as issuance of visas, travel and truck permits, cooperation in having activities and field presence in the south, agreement on reasonable pricing of fuel and cooperation with relevant NGOs on the basis of the MOU and Plan of Action".

At the time of the signing of the MOU in October, financial resources were seriously lacking, he continued. The new Central Emergency Revolving Fund had to be used for urgent deliveries of fuel to the north. Some contributions had been received in the last few weeks, but if the United Nations was to deliver humanitarian aid on an urgent basis, it was important that substantial contributions be made "in the very near future".

Max van der Stoel, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, told the Council that "present order in Iraq has all the characteristics of a totalitarian system" and precluded full respect of human rights obligations. Specifically, so long as the rule of law remained "undermined by the parallel orders of extra judicial and even extra legal rule administered essentially by a security apparatus only accountable to the inner circle of the Presidency, there cannot be any meaningful enjoyment of human rights or any genuine respect for the dignity of the individual".

Mr. van der Stoel said the Government of Iraq had failed to take advantage of the so-called "food for oil" formula devised by the Security Council to enlarge its food and medicaments resources. He urged that the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and Iraq be immediately and fully implemented, and that Iraq move quickly to accepts the terms of a United Nations supervised sale of oil which would enlarge food and medical resources. He also recommended that the Government of Iraq accept the deployment of human rights monitors throughout the country, especially in the southern area.

The last comprehensive review of Iraq's compliance with Council resolutions, conducted in formal and open meetings, was held mid-March and attended by an Iraqi high-level delegation led by Mr. Aziz.
Document A/47/367/Add. 1

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The outcome of the latest face-to-face talks between the two leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus had "not met expectations", and the objectives set by the Security Council to reach an overall framework agreement "did not materialize" during those talks, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said.

In his report to the Council, containing his assessment of the recent talks held at Headquarters from 28 October to 11 November, the Secretary-General noted that the discussions "demonstrated that differences remain between the positions of each side and the set of ideas" put forward by him. In particular, the report said, "some of the positions voiced by the Turkish Cypriot side are, in a fundamental way, outside the framework of the set of ideas", namely on the "concept of the federation; displaced persons; and territorial adjustments".

The Secretary-General cited "a deep crisis of confidence between the two sides" and said it was "difficult to envisage any successful outcome to the talks for as long as this situation prevails". Calling for the adoption by both sides of "confidence-building measures", the Secretary-General proposed a number of measures to be adopted in advance of the next round of joint meetings scheduled for next March.

Among such measures, he wrote, "the Turkish Forces on the island should be reduced to their level of a decade ago, and this should be reciprocated by the suspension of weapons acquisition programmes on the Greek Cypriot side". Those measures would be most timely in view of the imminent reductions in the personnel and resources of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Secretary-General also proposed the promotion of people-to-people contacts between the two communities, which would contribute to the breaking down of barriers of mistrust.
Document S/24830

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The Secretary-General has requested Tom Vraalsen, Assistant Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and former Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, to undertake a mission to South Africa, starting today. He is to meet there with senior government officials and with representatives of other relevant organizations to discuss the latest developments in the country, and on the basis of those meetings, to assess how the United Nations' contribution to the peace process might be enhanced.

Mr. Vraalsen, who will also be briefed by Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) on the deployment of the mission, is expected to report to the Secretary-General by 12 December.

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Despite the cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina, fighting was heavy in Sarajevo yesterday and today, Fred Eckhard, Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of

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the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, told the press in Geneva today. He said that a meeting of the Mixed Military Group, which organized the most recent cease-fire, was scheduled to take place in Sarajevo today.

Addressing the press on the activities of the Co-Chairmen, he said Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen were meeting this afternoon with the Prime Minister of Greece, Constantinos Mitsotakis, and that they would particularly welcome the opportunity to discuss the question of Macedonia and Kosovo.

Martti Ahtisaari, Chairman of the Conference Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, is expected to meet with the three parties to the conflict there. The Spokesman said he would hold initial discussions with them on the boundaries of the provinces to be established under a new Constitution for the country.

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The voter registration campaign in Cambodia might have passed the two million mark today, according to the Spokesman for the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Pointing out that over 300,000 voters had been registered just in Phnom Penh, he attributed "this remarkable achievement" to the great cooperation between all those taking part, including the enormously enthusiastic Cambodian registration teams.

Registration was due to start today, he said, in the remaining two provinces of Bantey Meanchey and Preah Vihear. The campaign had been effective throughout Cambodia, except for the zones under the control of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a report issued on Friday, said that timetable for the elections scheduled for May 1993 must be maintained, despite the fact that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea had "not found it possible so far" to cooperate in the implementation of the Paris peace agreements.

The Spokesman also said that 200 boxes of toys donated by the people of Canada would be distributed by the Naval Component of UNTAC to villages along the Tonlo Sap and Mekong rivers, starting on Wednesday.

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24 November 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, reaffirming Iraqi failure to comply with resolution 687 (1991), regrets "lack of any indication" by Iraq of how that country intends to comply with its obligations, rejects "threats, allegations and attacks" made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

+ Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in former Yugoslavia tells Third Committee nothing could explain "disdain for life and human dignity" in Bosnia and Herzegovina; reports on human rights situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, El Salvador and Myanmar also presented.

+ World Food Programme ship approaching Mogadishu harbor is set afire, leaves harbor without unloading its humanitarian supplies; incident raised immediately and very strongly by Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia with the parties involved.

+ Panel of independent high-level experts on reform of Secretariat structures in economic and social field concludes deliberations; Secretary-General designates K.K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to supervise next phase of restructuring.

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The Security Council today expressed regret at the "lack of any indication" in the statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz this morning of "how the Government of Iraq intends to comply with the resolutions of the Council". It also regretted the "baseless threats, allegations and attacks" launched by Mr. Aziz against the Council, the Special Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Boundary Demarcation Commission and the Committee established by resolution 661 (1991)". Rejecting in toto those threats, the Council reiterated its declaration of yesterday that "Iraq has not yet complied fully and unconditionally with its obligations" under resolution 687 (1991) and must immediately take the appropriate actions in that regard.

The Council's statement was read out by its President André Erdos (Hungary), following a statement this morning by Mr. Aziz in which he

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maintained that Iraq had fulfilled its commitments, especially those relating to the embargo. The Iraqi Minister said the United Nations bore the responsibility for the bitter suffering of the Iraqi people brought on by the Council sanctions.

Today's meeting was a resumption of the Council's review yesterday of the compliance by Iraq with its obligations under Council resolutions. During the review, Council President Erdos, United Nations experts et a number of delegations described Iraq's failure to comply with those resolutions.

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Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) this morning that nothing could explain "the disdain for life and human dignity" that he had found on his two trips to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In introducing his report, one of five country reports on human rights presented at the meeting, Mr. Mazowiecki said that murder, rape, the burning of houses, the destruction of churches and the obliteration of cemeteries had all been used to further the goals of "ethnic cleansing". To a large extent, he said, they had been attained.

He recommended, among other things: expanding the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to include the prevention of human rights violations; reaffirmation of the right of refugees and displaced persons to return, to ensure there was no acquiescence to ethnic cleansing; and the establishment of a small number of human rights monitors under his direction, for a continued investigation of serious human rights violations.

Max van der Stoel, the Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur for Iraq, also called for the deployment of monitors. He said the use of monitors had been rejected by the Iraqi Government as an unacceptable violation of sovereignty, but the massive violations there presented an "exceptionally grave situation". "Anybody who dared show a sign of disagreement with the Government in Iraq risked his life", he said.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation in Afghanistan, Felix Ermacora, said that, although the transition to an Islamic Government in May had initially been smooth, factional fighting had broken out soon after, resulting in a disastrous security and human rights situation.

The fate of Afghan refugees was one of the principal problems. More than 1 million people had returned between May and August -- an historic event -- but the return of the 4 million refugees still living abroad was contingent upon political developments. Since the complete breakdown of law and order in Kabul, an estimated 500,000 persons had fled the city. About 10,000 persons had been killed and 30,000 to 40,000 wounded.

In El Salvador people had been living in peace for the past year, following a 10-year armed conflict, said Pedro Nikken, the Independent Expert

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on the human rights situation there. The country was the scene of one of most important efforts of the United Nations to achieve reconciliation and peace. The cessation of violence since the signing last year of a Peace Agreement between the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had created an atmosphere of mutual respect for the rights of all, yet human rights violations continued and the means to combat them remained weak.

In Myanmar, information received from non-governmental sources indicated that many serious human rights violations were still occurring, the Special Rapporteur on the situation in that country told the Third Committee. He said he would be visiting Myanmar from 7 to 15 December, as well as speaking to refugees from Myanmar in Thailand and Bangladesh. The alleged violations included extrajudicial executions, disappearances, torture, arbitrary detention, suppression of fundamental freedoms and persecution of ethnic and religious minorities. The response of the Government, he said, seemed to be that all such allegations were unfounded and untrue.

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A World Food Programme (WFP) ship approaching Mogadishu harbor had been hit by fire and set afire and had turned around leaving the harbor without unloading its humanitarian supplies, according to a cable by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat Kittani today.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents that the incident was "a direct, major violation" of the agreement reached with the parties that the port and the harbor would not be the subject of fire. He added that in addition to the WFP ship, two additional ships were in Mogadishu harbor waiting to be unloaded.

The incident was raised immediately and very strongly by the Secretary-General's Special Representative with the parties involved.

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The panel of independent high-level experts established by the Secretary-General in August to advise him on the reform of Secretariat structures in the economic and social field concluded its deliberations on Sunday, 22 November, in a private meeting with the Secretary-General.

According to the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, the deliberations covered United Nations Secretariat structures in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Rome; such global entities as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and HABITAT; operational programmes like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP); and regional and field structures. The main objective of the review was to achieve "better integration of the economic, social and environmental work of the Organization and bring about a higher level institutional performance".

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The Spokesman said an announcement conveying the Secretary-General's initial decisions was expected in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General had accepted the recommendation of the panel that he should designate a high-level official "to follow up and, under his authority, oversee ... the next phase of Secretariat reform so as to insure its effective management and speedy implementation." The Secretary-General had designated K.K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for that task.

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United Nations

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25 November 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously reaffirms that present status quo in Cyprus is not acceptable; urges all concerned to commit themselves to confidence-building measures.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative in Angola, Margaret Anstee, meets with President of Angola and leader of UNITA; representatives of both sides to meet tomorrow for the first time since outbreak of fighting.

+ Despite distrust and polarization, implementation of peace process in El Salvador has advanced steadily and the obstacles have been overcome, says Secretary-General in report on El Salvador.

+ Relief convoys of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees blocked in two separate incidents in Bosnia Herzegovina; UNHCR Special Envoy expresses concern.

+ Pakistani officer with United Nations Operation in Somalia shot while travelling with two military observers; in stable condition and being evacuated to Niarobi for further treatment.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia to leave for Africa on Friday; to hold meetings in Bénin, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire en route to Liberia.

+ Electorial team of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia fired on by unknown assailants in Siem Reap Province; three people injured, one seriously; Secretary-General's Special Representative expresses shock at attack.

+ Chairman of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommends that General Assembly appropriate $108 million for United Nations Operation in Somalia for period from 1 May to 30 April 1993.

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The Security Council today unanimously reaffirmed its position that the present status quo in Cyprus was not acceptable and that an overall agreement in line with the set of ideas should be achieved without further delay. Noting that the recent joint meetings between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus had not achieved their intended goal, "in particular because certain positions adopted by the Turkish Cypriot side were fundamentally at variance with the set of ideas", the Council called upon the Turkish Cypriot side to adopt positions "that are consistent with the set of ideas on those issues identified by the Secretary-General" in his report of 19 November.

The Council further urged "all concerned" to commit themselves to a number of confidence-building measures, such as: a significant reduction of the number of foreign troops in the Republic of Cyprus; promotion of people-to-people contact between the two communities, by reducing restrictions to the movement of persons across the Buffer Zone; and military cooperation by both sides with the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), with a view to the extension of the unmanning agreement of 1989 to all areas of the United Nations-controlled Buffer Zone "where the two sides are in close proximity to each other".

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the confidence-building measures and to submit to it a full report after the conclusion of the joint meetings that will resume in March 1993.

Today's action by the Council follows a report by the Secretary-General containing his assessments of the recent face-to-face talks held at Headquarters from 28 October to 11 November between the two leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. In the document, he urged the adoption by both sides of "confidence-building measures" as a means to reducing the "deep crisis of confidence between the two sides".

The next round of meetings on Cyprus is scheduled for March 1993.

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The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola, Margaret Anstee, flew yesterday to Huambo to meet with Jonas Savimbi, President of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Today she met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola. These meetings form part of the efforts being made by the United Nations to mediate a political solution to the current crisis in that country, which risks plunging it into renewed civil war.

In a press release issued today at Headquarters, the Secretary-General's Spokesman also indicated that the immediate purposes of the talks were to consolidate the cease-fire which was brokered by the Secretary-General on 1 November, to encourage both parties to return to the negotiating table and to reach conclusions on the future role of the Organization on which the Secretary-General can then make recommendations to the Security Council.

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Miss Anstee reported that both meetings had been constructive and registered some positive moves forward, the most significant of which being the agreement for the representatives of the Government and of UNITA to meet tomorrow in the city of Namibe. In order to facilitate this face-to-face meeting - the first one since the fighting erupted on 31 October and 1 November - it was agreed that neither side would bring security personnel, indicated the press release.

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Despite a number of problems and despite the distrust and polarization that a fratricidal conflict creates, the implementation of the peace process in El Salvador has advanced steadily and the obstacles have been overcome, said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a report dated 23 November on the United Nations Observer Mission (ONUSAL) in El Salvador.

The impeccable observance of the cease-fire and the ability of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to engage in political activities in advance of its full legalization as a party "are an impressive demonstration of the will of both the Government and FMLN to consolidate peace in their country", also noted the Secretary-General.

However, he continued, both parties to the peace accords have been responsible for late and/or imperfect compliance with many of their commitments, including the most sensitive and important ones. The most serious threat to the process emerged when it became clear that the formal ending of the armed conflict could not be achieved by the programmed date of 31 October 1992, and that there were difficulties over the schedule for the purification of the Armed Forces, said Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The full and faithful implementation of the peace accords will continue to require flexibility and restraint on the part of the Government and FMLN, he stressed, expecially in the zones of former conflict, where the population has suffered from and often has been displaced by, military operations, and where tensions remain.

The Secretary-General noted that the successful completion of the peace process would also require continuing support from the international community both through the continued existence of ONUSAL and through the provision of voluntary contributions to support activities that the Government can not finance itself.

As regards ONUSAL, it was the Secretary-General's intention to submit to the Security Council at "appropriate intervals" his recommendations on the future activities and strength of the United Nations Observer Mission, taking into account progress made in implementing the peace process. For the present, it was his recommendation that the Council extend ONUSAL's mandate for a further period of six months, to 31 May 1993.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed grave concern over the blocking of a relief convoy bound for the besieged town

of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. Another convoy headed for Gorazde was stalled when an armored escort vehicle hit a landmine. No one was injured.

UNHCR's Special Envoy, José Maria Mendiluce, has described the blocking of the convoy as "an extremely serious development", adding that he had very recently received assurances that the Agency's convoy would be authorized to continue.

He said that UNHCR was gravely concerned that it was being prevented from carrying out its task of bringing food to thousands of people on the verge of starvation. UNHCR officials with the convoy were trying to reach senior authorities to continue the journey.

The convoy loaded with food for 80,000 people -- mainly Muslims -- was joined by two other UNHCR trucks, also packed with supplies for the Serb population in the town of Bratunac. The column was being escorted by United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops when it was stopped on the Bosnian side of the border with Serbia. An unknown Serbian colonel refused to allow the convoy any further.

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In Somalia earlier today shots were fired at a United Nations vehicle carrying two military observers, one from Finland and one from Zambia, and a Pakistani officer - all members of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). The officer, Major Saqlain, was hit in the shoulder, and was evacuated to the UNOSOM hospital. He was reported to be in stable condition and was being flown to Niarobi for further treatment.

The Spokesman for the Secretary-General said that he had been told the attack came from a lone gunman who emerged from a side street and began firing at the vehicle.

The United Nations, he said, was "in the process of lodging a strong protest" about the incident.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia, Trevor Livingston Gordon-Somers of Jamaica, is scheduled to leave New York for Africa on Friday evening. En route to Liberia he will visit Bénin, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, to meet with leaders of the Economic Community of West African Stat es (ECOWAS).

In Benin, he will meet with President Soglo, who is the Chairman of ECOWAS. In Nigeria, he will meet with the Executive Secretary and in Côte d'Ivoire with the Chairman of ECOWAS's Committee of Five. From there he will travel to Liberia, but the date of his arrival there will depend on the outcome of the earlier meetings.

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An electoral team working with the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was fired on yesterday while travelling with a civilian police escort in the Siem Reap Province. Three people were injured, a Fijian and a Cambodian lightly, and a second Cambodian more seriously, with a bullet wound in his lower abdomen. They were taken to the Bangladesh Battalion camp for first aid and then were evacuated by helicopter to the UNTAC field hospital in Siem Reap. All were reported to be in stable condition.

The UNTAC Spokesman said that the assailants had not been identified. A team of military observers had immediately been sent to the area to investigate the incident and UNTAC had requested help from the four Cambodian factions in trying to identify the attackers.

The attack brought to 13 the number of UNTAC members injured as a result of hostile action. The Head of UNTAC, Yasushi Akashi, expressed shock at the attack on members of the electoral component, those who were at the front line and most at risk. According to the Chief Electoral Officer, Reginald Austin, the incident would not prevent the registration process from extending as far as possible. It merely underlined the need to act with caution, he said.

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The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) would need just under $108 million to cover its costs from 1 May and up until the end of April 1993, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) was told yesterday. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), supporting the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNOSOM, recommended that the General Assembly appropriate that sum.

The Secretary-General, in his report, had appealed to Member States for voluntary contributions to meet initial UNOSOM expenses pending the operations's formal endorsement by the General Assembly, as well as for "the emplacement and continuing operation of UNOSOM". He also outlined an operational plan for UNOSOM that provides for a Force headquarters at Mogadishu and for four zone headquarters in other centers.

The report said that the operation would be staffed by a 700-person logistics unit, including an engineer squadron and field hospital. It would have five infantry battalions to provide security for receipt and delivery of relief supplies. The cease-fire in Mogadishu would be monitored by 50 military observers and some 480 civilian personnel to be recruited both internationally and locally.

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United Nations

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27 November 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General convenes task force to explore options on Somalia, following request from Security Council and meeting with United States Acting Secretary of State.

+ Secretary-General calls Joint Declaration of Namibe by Government of Angola and Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) "a positive step"; both parties fully accept validity of Angolan Peace Accords.

+ Secretary-General proposes to dispatch immediately a dozen military, police and civilian UNPROFOR personnel on exploratory mission to Macedonia, following request from Prime Minister of that country.

+ Tom Vraalsen of Norway, on mission to South Africa on behalf of Secretary-General, meets today with representatives of South African Government and African National Congress (ANC).

+ Secretary-General informs Security Council that physical demarcation of land part of Iraq-Kuwait boundary has been completed.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Government of Iran sign Memorandum of Understanding to assist, protect and seek solutions for nearly 3 million refugees in Iran.

+ International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People to be commemorated at Headquarters on Monday.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this morning convened a task force to explore options with regard to the situation in Somalia. The group consists of himself, Under-Secretaries-General James Jonah, Marrack Goulding, Jan Eliasson and Carl-August Fleischhauer, and his Executive Assistant, Alvaro de Soto.

The Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, informed correspondents today that earlier in the week, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had expressed concern about

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the situation in Somalia in a letter to the Security Council. "The situation is not improving and the conditions that have developed in Somalia since the fall of the previous regime make it exceedingly difficult for the United Nations Operation to achieve the objectives approved by the Security Council", wrote the Secretary-General. He did not exclude the possibility that it might become necessary to review the basic premises and principles of the United Nations effort in Somalia.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had briefed the members of the Security Council on the situation in Somalia. He had also met with the Acting Secretary of State of the United States, Lawrence Eagleburger, with whom he discussed, amongst other subjects, certain ideas the United States Government had with respect to Somalia.

Later that evening, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed set of options on Somalia, including precise plans or ideas. It was on that set of options that he was currently working, with a view to presenting them to the Council early next week. The Spokesman said Mr. Boutros-Ghali would be bearing in the mind the overriding goal of ensuring that humanitarian assistance reach the starving people of Somalia.

Also today, the Secretary-General's Spokesman issued a note on the total number of peace-keeping troops to be deployed in Somalia. Of the 4,219 to be deployed, 655 - a Pakistani battalion - are already in the country. Approval has been given by the Somali representatives with whom the United Nations is negotiating for the deployment of a Canadian battalion of 750, scheduled to arrive in Mogadishu between 4 and 6 December.

Other countries which have agreed to supply troops include Belgium (550) and Egypt (750). Smaller contingents for specific tasks have been offered by Ireland (logistics), Australia (movement control), Pakistan (field hospital and signals), New Zealand (supplies) and Norway (Headquarter troops).

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In a statement issued today at Headquarters, Secretary-General's Spokesman said that Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had welcomed the joint declaration made by the Government of Angola and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), describing the agreements reached as "a positive step forward which could begin to rescue the country".

The declaration - called the joint "Declaration of Namibe" - was adopted following a meeting held yesterday by representatives of the Angolan Government and UNITA in the city of Namibe, in the presence of the Secretary-General's Special Representative in that country, Margaret Anstee, and observers of the Comissao Conjunta Politico-Militar.

The joint declaration underlines the commitment by both parties to fully accept the validity of the Angolan Peace Accord as "the only means of solving the Angolan problem"; to reiterate and effectively apply the cease-fire throughout the whole national territory and the immediate cessation of all

offensive movements; and to solicit the extension of UNAVEM II's mandate and call for its larger quantitative and qualitative involvement.

In today's statement, the Secretary-General's Spokesman also stressed that the joint declaration should now be backed by concrete and effective actions on both sides, "to demonstrate that the cessation of hostilities and their intentions to achieve a lasting solution are a reality". The Secretary-General was confident that the United Nations would be ready to continue and, if necessary, strengthen assistance to Angola. However, continued the statement, the basis for sustained peace, democracy and development could "only be assured by the Angolan parties themselves".

The Namibe meeting - the first to be held between representatives of the Angolan Government and UNITA since the fighting erupted on 31 October and 1 November following the elections in that country - came after talks were held by Miss Anstee with both parties in order to encourage them to return to the negotiating table. These meetings form part of the efforts being made by the United Nations to mediate a political solution to the current crisis in Angola.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed to instruct the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yougoslavia to dispatch immediately a group of about a dozen military, police and civilian personnel on an exploratory mission to Macedonia. Their immediate mandate would be to visit Macedonia's border areas with Albania and Serbia and prepare a report on how a larger deployment of United Nations military and police personnel might help to strengthen security and confidence in Macedonia. Based on the report's findings, the Secretary-General could then make a recommendation to the Security Council for a more substantive deployment of UNPROFOR in Macedonia.

In a letter dated 23 November and addressed to the President of the Security Council, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed that his decision followed a request for the deployment of United Nations observers in Macedonia, conveyed to him by Kiro Gligorov, President of Macedonia, on a visit to Headquarters on 11 November. The request was made out of Macedonian President's concern about the possible impact on his country of fighting elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the Macedonian request had received support from Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, who both favored the very early deployment to Skopje - capital city of Macedonia - of a small group of UNPROFOR military and police observers, with supporting political staff.

* * *

Tom Vraalsen, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry of Norway who undertook a mission to South Africa on behalf of the

Secretary-General, reported that he held meetings today with representatives of the South African Government and the African National Congress (ANC).

In Pretoria he attended a working luncheon with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, R.F. Botha, and members of the Foreign Ministry. In Johannesburg he met with two members of the ANC Executive Committee, Thabo Mbeki, the Director of International Affairs, and Aziz Pahad, the Deputy Director.

The Secretary-General asked Mr. Vraalsen to undertake the mission to South Africa, starting this past Monday, to assess how the United Nations' contribution to the peace process might be enhanced. In addition to meeting with representatives of various South African organizations, he was to be briefed by Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA).

* * *

The Secretary-General has informed the Security Council that the physical demarcation of the land part of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait has been completed.

All pillars and associated markers for the entire length of the land part of the boundary have been installed and their emplacement checked and verified by the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission.

The Commission will proceed with the demarcation of the remainder of the boundary at its next session, to be held in Geneva from 14 to 16 December.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to protect, assist and seek durable solutions for the close to 3 million refugees in Iran. The agreement formalizing their "working partnership" was signed today in Geneva by High Commissioner Sadako Ogata and Ambassador Sirous Nasseri of Iran.

According to the UNHCR press release, the signing of the document comes three days before UNHCR is scheduled to start assisting Afghan refugees repatriating from Iran. Under the repatriation programme, each Afghan will receive $25 in cash, 50 kilograms of wheat provided by the World Food Programme (WFP), and plastic sheeting when they pass the main border crossing at Dogharon, on the border between Afghanistan and Iran.

An agreement was signed less than a month ago between the two countries and UNHCR, to facilitate safe and orderly repatriation of Afghan refugees. So far this year, an estimated 250,000 have crossed back into Afghanistan from Iran.

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Press Release DH/1278
27 November 1992

A solemn meeting of the Committee on the Exercice of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will be held on Monday, 30 November, to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The International Day is observed annually in accordance with a General Assembly resolution adopted in 1977. All Member States, specialized agencies, observers and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend the meeting, which will be addressed by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, among others.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1279
30 November 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in first of three meetings this afternoon, extends mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador for further six months, until 31 May 1993; in second meeting, it calls upon "those concerned" to prevent supply of oil products to any Cambodian party not complying with peace plan; will also consider freezing of assets held by Party of Democratic Kampuchea; in third meeting, Council extends mandate of United Nations Angola Verification Mission for another two months until 31 January 1993.

+ Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, outlines five proposals on humanitarian operations in Somalia.

+ Security Council expresses view that increased resort to fact-finding as contained in Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report could result in the "best possible understanding of the objective facts of a situation".

+ Unless cooperation of Serb militia forces in Croatia is obtained, United Nations Protection Force will "confront Security Council with same dilemma as have other United Nations operations which have been met with non-cooperation" by parties, Secretary-General says.

+ Secretary-General cites three basic elements for desired settlement of Middle East conflict at commemoration of International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People; speakers call for settlement of Arab-Israeli conflict with full restoration of national rights of Palestinians.

+ Elie Wiesel, holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize winner, visits Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss ways of ending bloodshed.

+ Special Envoy to South Africa, Tom Vraalsen, visits Ciskei for talks with Brigadier Oupa Gqozo on reducing violence, strengthening national Peace Accord, and peaceful transition to democracy in South Africa.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ World Aids Day Observance to be held at Headquarters tomorrow, 1 December, in General Assembly Hall.

* * *

The Security Council, in the first of three consecutive meetings this afternoon, voted to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for a further period of six months ending 31 May 1993. By its unanimous decision, the Council approved the report by the Secretary-General and invited him to adapt the future activities and strength of ONUSAL, taking into account progress made in implementing the peace process. The Council urged the Salvadorian Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to respect scrupulously and implement the agreements signed in January in Mexico City and to exercise the utmost moderation and restraint in order to respect the new deadlines agreed upon by them.

In a second meeting on Cambodia, the Council called on "those concerned" to ensure that measures are taken to prevent the supply of oil products to the areas occupied by any Cambodian party not complying with the military provisions of the Paris Agreements and asked the Secretary-General to examine such measures. The Coucil would consider appropriate measures to be implemented should the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) obstruct the implementation of the peace plan, such as the freezing of the assets held by the PDK outside Cambodia.

The Council further decided under its resolution 792 (1992), adopted by a vote of 14 in favour with one abstention (China), that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should proceed with preparations for free and fair elections to be held April/May next year in all areas of Cambodia to which UNTAC has full and free access as of 31 January.

Also under the text, the Council demanded that the PDK fulfil immediately its obligations under the Paris Agreements; that it facilitate without delay full deployment of UNTAC in the areas under its control; and that it not impede voter registration in those areas. It also demanded that the PDK implement fully Phase II of the cease-fire, particularly cantonment and demobilization, as well as all other aspects of the Agreements.

In a statement before the vote, China said that instead of helping to solve the problems, sanctions would further increase differences and sharpen contradictions which could consequently lead to new complicated problems.

At its third meeting today, the Security Council approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the existing mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for a further period of two months, until 31 January 1993.

In a resolution adopted unanimously, the Council strongly appealed to the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to engage in a continuous and meaningful dialogue aimed at

national reconciliation and at the participation of all parties in the democratic process, and to agree on a clear timetable for the fulfilment of their commitments, in accordance with the "Acordos de Paz".

The Council demanded that the two parties scrupulously observe the cease-fire, immediately stop all military confrontation, in particular offensive troop movements, and create all the conditions necessary for the completion of the peace process.

The Council also reaffirmed that it would hold responsible any party which refuses to take part in a continuous and meaningful dialogue, "thereby jeopardizing the entire process", and reiterated its readiness to consider all appropriate measures under the United Nations Charter to secure implementation of the peace plan.

It asked the Secretary-General to submit to the Council by 31 January 1993 a further report on the situation in Angola together with his longer-term recommendations for the further role of the United Nations in the peace process in that country, "which should be clearly defined in scope and time and based on a wide degree of support in Angola".

The Council's action follows a report by the Secretary-General in which he said that the successful completion of the peace process and the establishment of multi-party democracy in Angola "now seem further further off than at any time since before the Peace Accords were signed in May 1991". The Secretary-General warned in his report that "the international community cannot wait indefinitely" for the parties to take the difficult decisions required of them "if the peace process is to be put back on track".

In a statement to the Council before its vote, the Secretary-General expressed his great sadness at the death yesterday of a Brazilian police observer serving with UNAVEM II. Sergeant Adilson Barbosa Costa was killed in northern Angola, as a result of an outbreak of hostilities between Government and UNITA forces.

While deploring this further violation of the Angolan Peace Accords, Mr. Boutros-Ghali strongly appealed to both the Government of Angola and UNITA to cease hostilities immediately and to seek a peaceful solution to the present crisis through dialogue. "UNAVEM II can only carry out its tasks effectively if both sides demonstrate their full commitment to peace", he said.
Document S/25458

* * *

In a response to a request from the Council that he formulate a set of recommendations on how to remedy the breakdown of humanitarian efforts in Somalia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has outlined five options for its consideration. The response was contained in a letter made public today by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills.

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According to the letter, the first option would be to continue and intensify efforts to deploy the United Nations Observer Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM) in accordance with its existing mandate, which requires that force only be used in self-defence. Given that there are few authorities in the country with whom UNOSOM can effectively negotiate, continuation of the present course would be an inadequate response to the crisis, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stresses.

The second option suggests that the idea of using international military personnel to protect relief activities be abandoned, and that humanitarian agencies make the best arrangements they can with the various faction and clan leaders. However, the Secretary-General does not favour the option of withdrawal because, he argues, the troubles facing UNOSOM are not due to the presence of international troops, but because there are too few of them.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali says that the purpose of the three other options would be to ensure, on a lasting basis, that the current violence against the international relief effort was brought to an end.

The first of those three would be for UNOSOM to undertake a show of force in Mogadishu, based on the belief of some experts that a determined demonstration of force by UNOSOM troops in the capital would discourage those currently abusing the relief efforts from pursuing their lawless activities. However, Mr. Boutros-Ghali contends that a countrywide operation would be required to have the desired deterrent effect.

The next option would entail a countrywide enforcement action undertaken by a group of Member States authorized to do so by the Security Council. Mr. Boutros-Ghali mentions in this connection the offer by the United States to organize and lead such an operation. In such a case, the Secretary-General would advise the Council and those Members taking part in the operation that they find a way to recognize the Security Council's legitimate interest in the manner in which it was carried out.

The fifth and final option is also for a countrywide enforcement action, but one carried out under United Nations command and control. This would be consistent, he says, with the recent enlargement of the Organization's role in the maintenance of international peace and security, and would strengthen its long-term evolution as an effective system of collective security.

With the Secretariat already overstretched in managing peace-keeping commitments, the Secretary-General states, it would be necessary for Member States contributing troops to also provide personnel for the Headquarters, both in the field and in New York.

Whether an action is taken under United Nations command, or by Member States with Security Council authorization, he writes, it should be precisely defined and limited in time, "in order to prepare the way for a return to peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building".

* * *

Members of the Security Council have expressed their support for the Secretary-General's proposals on fact-finding contained in his report on "An Agenda for Peace". A statement by the President of the Council today said members were of the view that an increased resort to fact-finding as a tool of preventive diplomacy could result in "the best possible understanding of the objective facts of a situation", thus enabling the Secretary-General to meet his responsibilities.

The members of the Security Council, the statement continued, being aware of the increased responsibilities of the United Nations in the area of preventive diplomacy, invited the Secretary-General to consider appropriate measures necessary to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat for information gathering and in-depth analysis. It further noted that the members of the Council would facilitate and encourage appropriate use of fact-finding missions on a case-by-case basis.

The Council members endorsed the Secretary-General's view that "in some cases a fact-finding mission can help defuse a dispute or situation, indicating to those concerned that the United Nations and in particular the Security Council is actively seized of the matter as a present or potential threat to international peace and security".

* * *

Unless a way was found to obtain the cooperation of the Serb militia forces in Croatia, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in that country would "confront the Security Council with the same dilemma" as have other United Nations operations which have been met "with non-cooperation" by the parties, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said.

In a further report on the progress made by UNPROFOR in general, he said the situation in the four United Nations protected areas in Croatia and in the so-called "pink zones" -- areas controlled by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and populated largely by Serbs -- had "not improved" since September, even though the United Nations peace-keepers had succeeded in controlling the level of hostilities in the area. In such situations, he wrote, "the Security Council has to make the difficult choice between withdrawing the operation", thus facing a resumption of the fighting, "or keeping it in place" in the knowledge that it may involve the Council in "large and expensive commitments for an indefinite period of time".

The "root cause" for UNPROFOR's inability to make further progress in Croatia, the Secretary-General continued, were the Serb militia forces, known as "the Knin authorities", who were refusing the accept the demilitarization of the area and the return of refugees and displaced persons. It was they who had "exploited the presence of UNPROFOR and the resulting cessation of hostilities to assert their pretentions to sovereignty and statehood", instead of cooperating with the UNPROFOR to create conditions for negotiations of their legitimate concerns.

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With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary-General said the situation there was "also disquieting", but UNPROFOR's mandate in that country - part of which was to monitor the ban on military flights - was "more practicable than in Croatia". It had already been established that this was feasible.
Document S/24848

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today told a solemn meeting commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People that there were three elements basic to the desired settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East: withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories; acknowledgement of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in the region, including Israel, and a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian problem based on the recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

The Chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee, Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal, urged the international community to reaffirm the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with respect to the question of Palestine until it was resolved. It was clear that the parties concerned and the international community must intensify efforts to break through the impasse to reach a just settlement, he added.

The President of the General Assembly, Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria, said the question of Palestine remained the longest unresolved conflict on the agenda of the United Nations. The United Nations bore historic responsibility towards ensuring a just settlement based on full restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

* * *

Elie Wiesel, holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize winner, visited Sarajevo yesterday to meet with the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to discuss ways of ending the bloodshed in that region.

The President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Dobrica Cosic, told the Bosnian President in a letter that Mr. Wiesel had already visited his country with the intention of contributing to the establishment of peace as soon as possible.

The letter, dated 27 November, was circulated as an official document (S/24860) of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In a separate development, Croatia has expressed concern that the naval blockade imposed by the Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) would cause merchants to avoid sailing into the Adriatic Sea, "thus causing irreparable damage" to the Croatian maritime industry.

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In a letter, dated 26 November, to the President of the Security Council, the Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, said hundreds of thousands of refugees in Croatia were receiving international humanitarian relief aid, part of which was being shipped by sea. While welcoming the Council's decision to impose a naval blockade, Mr. Nobilo said delay in those precious shipments would prolong the suffering of the refugees in Croatia. He urged the Security Council to issue guidelines to facilitate the monitoring of States' implementation of its decision.

* * *

Tom Vraalsen, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to South Africa, is continuing his mission to that country to assess how the United Nations' contribution to peace might be enhanced.

According to a press communiqué issued today, Mr. Vraalsen visited Bisho, Ciskei, over the weekend for talks with Brigadier Oupa Gqozo and members of his staff. He was accompanied by Angela King, head of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA). The talks covered a wide range of issues related to reducing violence, strengthening the structures under the national Peace Accord, and bringing about a peaceful transition to democracy in South Africa. Today, Mr. Vraalsen met in Pretoria with seven cabinet ministers of the South African Government.

* * *

The United Nations will be observing 1992 World AIDS Day tomorrow, 1 December, at Headquarters, with a special briefing on AIDS in the General Assembly Hall, featuring speakers from around the world, who are leaders in the battle against AIDS. Assembly President Stoyan Ganev and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali are scheduled to address the Assembly.

This years World AIDS Day will be marked under the theme "A community Commitment", recognizing the key contribution of communities around the world in the response to the pandemic.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1280
1 December 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Situation in Somalia and Secretary-General's latest recommendations for more forceful approach to securing humanitarian relief operations in that country are subject of Security Council consultations this afternoon.

+ Human Rights Commission, concluding two-day special session in Geneva today, calls on all States to consider extent to which acts committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia constitute genocide.

+ Israel describes in Assembly functioning of its proposed democratically elected Palestinian administrative council to deal with day-to-day Palestinian affairs; Saudi Arabia insists there must be complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, foremost among them Holy City of Jerusalem.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to send two teams to Armenia and Azerbaijan with emergency aid for over 750,000 refugees and people displaced by conflict in disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

+ Secretary-General tells Assembly, marking World AIDS Day, of creation of United Nations interagency advisory group to meet regularly and to create "coordinated and effective response" to the AIDS endemic.

+ Secretary-General says timetable for implementing El Salvador Peace Agreement appears to be on schedule; receives letter from President Cristiani on Government's compliance.

+ High-level meeting in Geneva on 4 December to review humanitarian effort in ex-Yugoslavia, led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

* * *

The situation in Somalia and the Secretary-General's latest proposals for a more forceful approach to the problem of securing humanitarian relief operations in that country were the subject of Security Council consultations this afternoon.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Before the Council began its deliberations, the Hungarian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, André Erdos, told correspondents that "a possible scenario" could be an operation where the command and control functions could be played by the United States and where strong institutional links could be secured between the United Nations and the United States.

He said the difference between "Desert Storm" in the Persian Gulf war and a possible operation in Somalia was that the latter would strengthen and make more visible United Nations authority, as recommended by the Secretary-General. According to his plan, United Nations staff would be assigned to the operation both at Headquarters and in the field and an ad hoc committee of the Security Council would visit Somalia and report regularly on developments there.

The Secretary-General's recommendations on how to secure the humanitarian relief operations in Somalia were published yesterday in a letter by Mr. Boutros-Ghali addressed to the Security Council.

* * *

The United Nations Human Rights Commission, concluding a two-day special session in Geneva today, called on all States to consider the extent to which acts committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia constitute genocide. The resolution was approved by 45 countries, with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) opposing it and Cuba abstaining.

The Commission condemned ethnic cleansing and put the blame mainly on the Serbian leadership in Bosnia, the Yugoslav army and the political leadership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). It called on all parties, particularly the Serbian leadership in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), to use whatever influence they have to put an end to ethnic cleansing and to reverse the effects of the practice by allowing refugees to return to their homes.

It also called for the closure of detention camps, the opening of humanitarian relief corridors and the creation of security zones to protect displaced people.

The special session - the Commission's second such session this year to consider the human rights situation in the former Yugoslav republics - was called at the request of the Governments of Turkey and the United States.

* * *

A political settlement of the situation in the territories needed to be reached in stages, the first of which was autonomy, the representative of Israel said this morning in the General Assembly. Speaking in the Assembly's continuing debate on the question of Palestine, he said the Israeli Government had proposed a democratically elected Palestinian administrative council which

(more)

would, under the interim self-government arrangement, assume broad powers and responsibilities to deal with the vast majority of the Palestinians' day-to-day affairs.

The proposed council, he stated, would administer operations within 15 spheres, such as: administration of justice; agriculture; finance, budget and taxation; industry and commerce; social welfare; and tourism. The executive general powers it would wield within those spheres of operation would include the power to promulgate regulations and by-laws.

The representative of Saudi Arabia told the Assembly there could be no real peace in the Middle East without a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian question. There must be a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, foremost among which was the Holy City of Jerusalem.

The representative of Indonesia proposed that the occupied territories be placed under United Nations protection during the transition period. Various speakers called on the United Nations to take an active role in facilitating the success of the peace process and welcomed its direct participation in the multilateral peace negotiations.

* * *

In its first emergency aid programme for people in the former Soviet Union, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is dispatching two emergency teams to bring assistance to the more than 750,000 refugees and internally displaced people in Armenia and Azerbaijan. The six-month, $6-million operation, launched at the request of the two Republics, will aid victims of the ethnic conflict involving the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A special UNHCR-chartered aircraft is scheduled to leave Geneva on Wednesday evening for the capitals of the the two Republics carrying two five-member teams of emergency relief specialists, radio equipment and other field supplies. Initially, UNHCR activities will focus on housing of 145,500 people considered the most vulnerable in the harsh winter months ahead.

The UNHCR will be bringing in blankets, plastic sheeting and thousands of tons of food. It will also construct 300 homes for the needy in Azerbaijan, and will help repair community buildings in the two Republics.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this afternoon told a meeting of the General Assembly marking World AIDS Day that he had created a single interagency advisory group within the United Nations system, with strengthened terms of reference. The group, which had held its first meeting last month, would meet regularly and was committed to create a "coordinated and effective response" to the AIDS endemic, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said.

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Noting that AIDS demanded a multi-sectoral, integrated approach from the United Nations, he recalled his report to the Economic and Social Council earlier this year in which he stressed that "the need for the United Nations to mount a comprehensive and coordinated response" was clear. There were now 135 national AIDS programmes in operation, which have been planned, set up and assisted through the collaboration of United Nations bodies and agencies, governments and the private and voluntary sector, the Secretary-General said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the HIV virus has infected about 11 to 13 million people worldwide. More than two million people have developed AIDS and most of them have died. WHO further estimates that by the end of this decade the virus will have infected 30 to 40 million people.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today in a statement that it appeared that the timetable of the implementation of the Peace Agreements for El Salvador was unfolding essentially on schedule and that if all other undertakings were complied with as foreseen, it would be possible to complete the cease-fire stage of the peace process on 15 December.

In a statement issued by his Spokesman, the Secretary-General confirmed that he had received a letter of 29 November from President Cristiani of El Salvador informing him of administrative decisions made by the President with regard to the purification of the armed Forces. The Government had thus complied with its commitment under the Peace Agreement. The Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) was due to provide the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) with a final inventory of weapons and to begin their destruction, the statement said. This would be followed by the resumption by the Government of the dissolution of military units as previously agreed.

The Security Council yesterday extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for another six months until the end of May and urged the two parties to respect scrupulously the peace agreements.

* * *

Representatives from more than 50 nations and international organizations are expected in Geneva on Friday, 4 December, for a high-level review of the humanitarian effort in the former Yugoslavia, led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The feasibility of safe zones and the need for the international community to keep its doors open to those fleeing the fighting are amongst the issues to be considered.

Under the chairmanship of High Commissioner Sadako Ogata, participants will examine the seven elements of the Comprehensive Response for former Yugoslavia that was endorsed at a ministerial conference in Geneva on 29

(more)

July. Those components are: human rights, preventive protection, humanitarian access, special humanitarian needs, temporary protection for refugees, material assistance, and return and rehabilitation.

According to a working paper prepared for the meeting, over 3 million refugees, displaced and otherwise affected people - about 1.7 million of them in Bosnia and Herzegovina - are now in need of humanitarian aid. The paper stresses the primary need to find a lasting political solution to the conflict, saying that without that, "there is a serious risk of a massive and prolonged refugee problem and, potentially, a widening of the conflict".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1281
2 December 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As Security Council continues consultations on Somalia, Secretary-General studies relationship between UNOSOM and "new force that Council may authorize" to secure humanitarian operation; General Assembly appropriates over $109 million for UNOSOM from 1 May 1992 through end of April 1993; follow-up meeting to 100-Day Action Programme scheduled in Addis Ababa from 2 to 4 December.

+ United Nations spokesman describes as "extraordinarily serious" situation in Cambodia where in two days United Nations personnel have been victims of four separate incidents arising from conflict there.

+ Afghanistan, with world's largest group of refugees now returning home, faces "emergency of immense proportions", Secretary-General warns in report; appeals to international community to provide necessary funds.

+ Concerns, rights and needs of disabled persons should be addressed at every level, Secretary-General says in message on occasion of International Day of Disabled Persons, to be observed at Headquarters tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General to convene meeting of high-level personalities in Geneva on 28 December to consider ways to advance implementation of United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

+ Agreement to speed up phase-out of ozone-depleting chemicals reached by parties to 1987 Montreal Treaty.

+ Over $48 million dollars pledged today to the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for 1993.

+ Fort-fifth volume of United Nations Yearbook published, marking first time in 30 years that it is published within 12 months following calendar year covered.

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For information media--not an official record

As the Security Council is continuing its consultations on the situation in Somalia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is studying the relationship between the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and the "new force that the Council may authorize to create a secure environment for delivery of humanitarian assistance" in that country.

A statement issued by a United Nations spokesman said that until the precise nature of the force was determined and the Council had taken a decision, the Secretary-General had requested the Canadian Government to hold temporarily the deployment of its troops to Bossasso.

In a related development, the General Assembly yesterday decided to appropriate over $109 million to finance UNOSOM for the period from 1 May 1992 through end of April next year. It also authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation, at a rate not to exceed $14 million gross per month, for the period beginning 1 May 1993, should the Council decide to continue the operation beyond that date.

The Assembly further asked the Secretary-General to set up a special account for UNOSOM and to secure that all United Nations activities related to the Operation are administered under the authority of his Special Representative.

In other news, a meeting is scheduled in Addis Ababa from 2 to 4 December as follow-up to the Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia held mid-October in Geneva, which launched the 100-Day Action Programme for aid to that country. It will be chaired by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat T. Kittani, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson.

It is hoped that the Addis Ababa meeting will go beyond the scope of the 100-Day Action Programme to address relief and rehabilitation activities for the first half of 1993. Another objective is to bring together all the different parties, including a number of Somali political leaders, clan leaders, local non-governmental organizations and Governments, and United Nations organizations.

* * *

A United Nations Spokesman today described as "extraordinarily serious" the situation in Cambodia where in the past two days personnel with the United Nations Transition Authority (UNTAC) have been the victims of four separate incidents arising from the conflict there.

Yesterday, six United Nations military observers - three British, two Filippinos and one New Zealander - were kidnapped by forces of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). The Spokesman, Joe Sills, said that efforts were being made to secure their release, but with no success so far. However, radio contact had been established and the kidnapped personnel reported to be in good health.

(more)

A United Nations team travelling by helicopter to Phnom Penh to speak to NADK representatives about the incident, was hit by gunfire, Mr. Sills continued, and a senior French officer, Lieutenant Colonel Thierry Mone, was struck by a bullet. He was operated on and was now in "good condition".

In separate incidents, this morning (Cambodian time), a civilian police vehicle driven by two Tunisian members of the United Nations police force, hit by an anti-tank landmine. Both policemen were injured, the one quite seriously. Two hours later, a second civilian police vehicle hit a landmine, injuring all four passengers. One of them was hurt seriously and was evacuated to Bangkok for treatment.

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Afghanistan, with the world's largest group of refugees now in the process of returning home, is facing an emergency of immense proportions, the Secretary-General warns in a report issued today. He says that unless the international community provides the minimum necessary funds, there will be little chance of overcoming the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan in the foreseeable future. He describes as "a remarkable phenomenon" the fact that the Afghan refugees are willing to go back voluntarily despite the very difficult and dangerous conditions they face on their return to the country.

Apart from the financial crisis facing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation programme, Mr. Boutros-Ghali says, the lack of funds has held back crucial clearing of mines, and no new funds have been available for sectors such as agriculture, health care and road rebuilding. Deploring the poor response to his consolidated appeal in June for aid for Afghanistan, he stresses that assistance is needed not just for refugees, but also for the population as a whole, for basic survival.

The Secretary-General appeals to all Governments concerned to support a political process in Afghanistan that would promote national unity, safeguard the country's territorial integrity and respect the right of the Afghan people to decide their own future. Any actions to the contrary, he warns, will have serious political and security implications for the whole region.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message issued on the occasion of the first International Day of Disabled Persons tomorrow, 3 December, has said that an integrated approach to disability has been one of the most welcome developments over the last 10 years. The concerns, rights and needs of disabled persons should be addressed not only every day of the year, but also in every sector and at every level.

He went on to say that the United Nations of the future would be people-centred, based on a new partnership between the United Nations and its agencies, Governments and non-governmental organizations.

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To mark the observance of the Day tomorrow, a demonstration of technical aids for people with disabilities will be held at United Nations Headquarters. It is being organized by the Center for Computing and Disability of the University at Albany, State University of New York. The demonstration, in the General Assembly Public Lobby, will show how computers and other advanced technologies can enable people with disabilities to overcome barriers which prevent them from taking an active part in society.

On 14 October, at its special plenary sessions to mark the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the General Assembly had proclaimed 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons. The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, a blueprint for action in the areas of disability prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities, was adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 1982.

* * *

As part of his ongoing effort to address the critical economic situation in Africa, the Secretary-General will be convening a meeting of high-level personalities in Geneva on 28 December. The participants will advise him on ways to advance the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, a programme of commitments by Africa and the international community to foster the continent's economic recovery and development.

Those attending include: Sylvie Brunel, President of "Action Internationale Contre la Faim"; Bronson Dede, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity; Martin Huslid, Norway's Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Edward Jaycox, Vice-President, African Region, of the World Bank; Simba Makoni, Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa Development Community, and Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and Chairman of the Africa Leadership Forum.

United Nations officials participating in the meeting include: Layachi Yaker, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Africa; Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, and Yves Berthelot, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

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Ministers and high Government officials from 74 countries and the European Community agreed earlier this week to a complete phase-out of ozone depleting CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) and carbon tetrachloride by 1 January 1996, four years ahead of schedule. They also decided to speed up the elimination of halons (used in fire extinguishers) by six years, from 2000 to 1994 and the 100 per cent phase-out of methyl chloroform (used in dry-cleaning) by nine years, from 2005 to 1996.

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The agreements were reached at the end of a three-day conference of parties to the 1987 Montreal Treaty organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, said they represented "the strongest package of global environmental laws ever enacted", but that that was not enough. In 1992 scientific observations by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP had demonstrated that the ozone layer had experienced its greatest deterioration. "We cannot rest until the ozone layer is safe", said Mr. Tolba.

Two other significant agreements were reached at the conference. One called for an accelerated phase-out of HCFCs (hydrofluorocarbons). The other called for a freeze, by 1995, of production of methyl bromide, which is used as a fumigant on soils, on foodstuffs stored in warehouses and in buildings, at the 1991 level.

* * *

Over $48 million dollars were pledged today for the 1993 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides educational services, food aid, medical services, relief and social services programmes.

Announcement of contributions were made by 34 countries, as well as the Holy Sea, at a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA.

Some of the Agency's traditionally largest contributors, such as the United States, the European Community, Sweden, Japan and the United Kingdom, said their pledges would be announced later.

The UNRWA's regular budget for 1993 announced last year totalled $317 million. However, it was feared that there might be a shortfall of $20 million in its cash resources for next year as a result of diminishing financial support for its programme of Extraordinary Measures for Lebanon.

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The Department of Public Information has announced the publication of the forty-fifth volume of the Yearbook of the United Nations, covering the activities of the United Nations system in 1991. This is the most current edition and marks the first time in 30 years that the Yearbook has been published within 12 months following the calendar year covered.

Fully indexed, the Yearbook is the single most comprehensive and authoritative publication covering the work of the Organization. It is designed not just for use by diplomats, government officials and scholars, but also by writers, journalists, teachers and students. Information is given on meetings and activities of United Nations bodies, and major resolutions are reprinted in their entirety.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1282
3 December 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously authorizes use of "all necessary means" to secure delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia and welcomes the offer by a Member State concerning the establishment of an operation to create such a secure environment; calls on all Member States, in a position to do so, to provide military forces and to make additional contributions to such an operation.

+ Security Council President expresses "deep concern and outrage" at increasing attacks against United Nations personnel in peace-keeping operations; six United Nations officials, kidnapped in Cambodia, not yet released.

+ Despite bombing of six trucks in Iraq last weekend, World Food Programme pledges to proceed with commitment to feed 1.2 million people in all parts of country.

+ Security Council arms embargo on former Yugoslavia must apply to all Republics that are part of it, says Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ President F.W. de Klerk submits timetable to Security Council on transitional process in South Africa, which envisages fully representative government of national unity in place no later than first half of 1994.

+ Consultations with Western Sahara chieftains to have taken place this week at Palais des Nations at Geneva, cancelled due to disagreements over the powers of some of participants.

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The Security Council this evening authorized the Secretary-General and Member States cooperating to "use all necessary means" to establish as soon as possible a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia

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For information media—not an official record

and welcomed the offer by a Member State concerning the establishment of an operation to create such a secure environment. The Council took that action in recognition of the "unique character" of the present situation in Somalia.

Adopting unanimously resolution 794 (1992) and acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council also called on all Member States, which are in a position to do so, to provide military forces and to make additional contributions to such an operation. It asked the Secretary-General to establish a fund through which the contributions could be channeled to the States or operations.

Authorizing the Secretary-General and Member States to make the necessary arrangements for "unified command and control" of the forces involved, the Council also asked that appropriate mechanisms be established for coordination between the United Nations and the forces involved. It also decided to appoint an ad hoc commission composed of Council members to report to the Security Council, and invited the Secretary-General to attach a small group of United Nations liaison staff to the field headquarters of the unified command.

Under the resolution, the Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it on a regular basis, the first such report to be made no later than 15 days after today, on the attainment of the objective of the resolution in order to enable the Council to make the necessary decision for a prompt transition to continued peace-keeping operations. It also asked the Secretary-General to submit a plan to the Council to ensure that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) will be able to fulfil its mandate upon withdrawal of the unified command.

The Council demanded that all parties, movements and factions in Somalia take all measures necessary to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations and its humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in that country and that it ensure the safety of United Nation personnel, including the authorized military forces.

Speaking after the vote, the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Edward J. Perkins, pointed out that while the resolution authorized the use of "all necessary means", the Council's mission was essentially a peaceful one, and that its members would endorse the use of force only "if and when we decide it is necessary to accomplish our objective".

He went on to say that in offering to contribute to the effort authorized by the resolution, the United States' only objective was to provide unambiguous support for the United Nations in enabling it to confront challenges to international peace and security. Once deployed, the military forces would remain in Somalia no longer than necessary, he indicated, noting that it was important, in the case of Somalia and in future cases, to send an unambiguous message that "the international community has the intent, and will, to act decisively regarding peacekeeping problems that threaten international stability".

Speaking in favour of the resolution, the other speakers - including the permanent members of the Council - underlined the unique nature of the crisis in Somalia and the urgent need to use exceptional measures to bring humanitarian relief to this country's starving populations.

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Security Council President Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan (India) has expressed "deep concern and outrage" on behalf of Council members at the increasing number of attacks against United Nations personnel serving in various peace-keeping operations. The statement comes in reaction to a number of serious incidents during the last few days affecting military and civilian personnel serving with United Nations operations in Angola, Cambodia and former Yugoslavia.

Condemning those attacks, the Council President demanded that all parties concerned take all necessary measures to prevent their recurrence. He said the Council considered the abduction and detention of United Nations peace-keeping personnel as totally unacceptable and demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the personnel serving with United Nations operations in Cambodia and Yugoslavia.

On 29 November in Uige, in northern Angola, a Brazilian police observer with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) was killed as a result of an outbreak of hostilities between National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and government forces, during which the UNAVEM camp was caught in the cross-fire.

The statement went on to say that the situation of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), which had already suffered over 300 casualties, 20 of them fatal, remained deeply troubling. On 30 November, two Spanish UNPROFOR soldiers in Bosnia and Herzegovina were seriously injured in a mine attack, and a Danish soldier was abducted by armed men yesterday. However, the latter was released a few hours later.

On 1 December, two British military observers serving in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and four naval observers, two from the Philippines, one from New Zealand and one from the United Kingdom, on patrol in Kompong Thom province, were illegally detained by forces belonging to the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). An United Nations helicopter, sent to assist in the discussions for their release, was fired upon, and a French military observer on board was injured. Moreover, six United Nations civilian police monitors -- three Indonesians, two Tunisians and one Nepalese -- were injured in two land-mine incidents in Siem Reap province.

With regard to the safety of the six kidnapped United Nations officers in Cambodia, a United Nations spokesman said today they had not yet been released but that he was very hopeful that that would happen shortly.

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Despite the bombing of six of its trucks in Iraq this past weekend, the World Food Programme (WFP) has pledged to proceed with its winter relief operations in all parts of the country. However, the United Nations will tighten security measures for future convoys carrying out the Programme's commitment to feed 1.2 million people all over the country throughout the winter.

The time bombs exploded under the WFP trucks on Sunday evening, as they were parked outside warehouses in Erbil, in northern Iraq. No one was hurt and the warehouses were not damaged, but the explosions destroyed 30 tonnes of flour. United Nations guards found a time bomb planted under a seventh vehicle and diffused it without incident.

The trucks were part of a 24-vehicle convoy travelling from Turkey to Iraq. They had been chartered by the United States Government to carry 90 tonnes of wheat flour on consignment to WFP. Another convoy of 24 trucks, carrying wheat seeds and wheat flour, arrived safely at Suleimaniya and Erbil.

In late October, when the United Nations and the Government of Iraq agreed to extend their Memorandum of Understanding to cover humanitarian relief operations until the end of March 1993, WFP had pledged to provide and deliver 49,000 tonnes of emergency rations by truck from neighbouring Turkey and Jordan, for delivery throughout the country.

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The Security Council arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia applied to all the Republics that were part of it, the Chargé d'affaires of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) says in a letter of 1 December to the President of the Council.

Protesting a letter from the Permanent Representative of Croatia interpreting the sanctions as applying exclusively to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, he states that the measures apply to vessels going to or coming from all the Adriatic ports of the former Yugoslavia, including those of Croatia. That had also been confirmed, he says, by the Ministers of the Western European Union at their meeting in Rome on 20 November.

He writes that while not wishing to reply at this time to allegations about the Serbian authorities' involvement in the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina, he quotes the Security Council's demand that "all forces, in particular elements of the Croatian army, be withdrawn, or be subjected to the authority of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or be disbanded or disarmed".
Document S/24877

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President F.W. de Klerk has submitted a timetable to the Security Council on the transitional process in South Africa, which envisages that a fully representative government of national unity will be in place no later than the first half of 1994.

In a statement transmitted to the Secretary-General, President de Klerk emphasized that the proposed timetable could be implemented only with the cooperation of all important parties in South Africa. The Government had hoped that the process it launched in 1990 would lead the country away from violent political conflict towards a just society with normalized free party competition and participation. However, he said, "violence delays progress along the road to constitutional reform". For elections to be free and fair, it was "inconceivable" that political parties should have private armies. Only recognized political parties should participate in the political process to ensure a climate conducive to free and fair elections, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Committee established by the Security Council concerning the question of South Africa said in a statement yesterday that it had learned "with dismay" that the Defence Exhibition of South Africa (DEXSA-92) apparently attracted representatives of foreign Governments and organizations of the arms industry. Reminding United Nations Member States of the international embargo against arms, ammunition of all types and military vehicles produced in South Africa, the Committee urged Governments not to act in any manner inconsistent with the Security Council's resolutions.
Document S/24866

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Consultations with Western Sahara chieftains scheduled originally to take place at the Palais des Nations at Geneva at the beginning of this week have been cancelled due to disagreements over the powers of some of those due to participate.

According to a press release issued at Headquarters, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, was to invite 38 tribal chieftains from Western Sahara for consultations in Geneva on 30 November and 1 December. The participants -- 19 of them nominated by Morocco and 19 by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) -- were expected to advise the Special Representative on ways and means of identifying those entitled to take part in the referendum the United Nations plans to organize in Western Sahara.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1283
4 December 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General calls last night's Security Council resolution on Somalia "historic"; Somali leaders express support for Council's decision in declaration adopted today in Addis Ababa.

+ Establishment of three new departments in economic and social field announced by Secretary-General; appointment of three Under-Secretaries-General, two Assistant Secretaries-General, and new Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme.

+ Secretary-General at Atlanta this weekend to attend conference on global development cooperation which he will co-chair with former United States President Jimmy Carter.

+ Secretary-General calls on Islamic Conference to support strategies authorized by Security Council to end conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, to visit Headquarters on 10 and 11 December, for consultations on peace process in that country.

+ Secretary-General, in message to International Conference on Nutrition in Rome tomorrow, calls for approach to malnutrition that encompasses peace, security and development.

+ Work of individuals is crucially important in building new structures of international relations, Secretary-General says in a message for International Volunteer Day tomorrow.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night described the Security Council's resolution on Somalia as "an historic resolution" which would "reinforce the new role of the United Nations and help the Somali people". The comments were made to correspondents following the Council's decision to authorize the use of force to secure the deliveries of humanitarian aid to Somalia.

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For information media—not an official record

Asked if the decision was "a model for viewing a post Cold War conflict", Mr. Boutros-Ghali replied that he hoped it would create a precedent. He said that while the first stage of the operation would concentrate on the security of the distribution of humanitarian aid to the starving Somalis, the second stage would be an effort to promote national reconciliation in that country.

In a related development, Somali traditional community leaders and political movements in that country have declared their support for the Council's decision yesterday to send humanitarian protection forces to Somalia to secure emergency relief assistance and the safety of all relief workers there.

In a declaration adopted today in Addis Ababa at the conclusion of the follow-up meeting to the 100-Day Action Programme for Somalia, Somali leaders said the existence of hostile political grouping was the main obstacle to a speedy political settlement in the country. They proposed the convening of a conference on National Reconciliation under the United Nations auspices and asked that the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Standing Committee for the Horn of Africa, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference take active part in that effort.

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According to an announcement made at Headquarters today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to establish three new Departments at the United Nations Secretariat in New York: The Department for Development, Support and Management Services, which will be headed by Ji Chaozhu (China); the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, to be headed by Nitin Desai (India); and the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, to be headed by Jean-Claude Milleron (France). The three appointments will be at the Under-Secretary-General level.

The Secretary-General has also appointed Ibrahima Fall (Senegal) as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Ms. Gertrude Mongella (Tanzania) as Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995. In addition, the Secretary-General has submitted to the General Assembly the nomination of Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Canada) for the post of Executive-Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will be attending a conference in Atlanta this weekend on global development cooperation. According to his Spokesman, Joe Sills, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will be co-chairing the conference with former United States President Jimmy Carter.

The Secretary-General will address the conference on Saturday morning. In the afternoon he will participate in the closing session and a press conference.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference to support the strategies adopted by the Security Council to end the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has invited the Conference to consider how to support the constitutional ideas offered by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia. The call was contained in a message read out by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, at the extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 1 and 2 December.

The Secretary-General emphasized in his message that the Islamic Conference could do much to help ensure compliance with the sanctions regime against former Yugoslavia. Of special importance, he said, would be the Conference's reinforcement of efforts now under way to condemn and reverse "ethnic cleansing", to combat violations of humanitarian law and to bring justice to those guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

* * *

Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, will be in New York on 10 and 11 December. United Nations official announced today that the Secretary-General had asked Miss Anstee to visit Headquarters for consultations on the peace process in Angola and the United Nations involvement there.

As head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM), Miss Anstee oversaw the elections there at the end of September and has been involved since in efforts to halt hostilities and move the country towards the next step in establishing peaceful, democratic government.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the International Conference on Nutrition meeting in Rome tomorrow, calls for an integrated approach to malnutrition, encompassing peace, security and development, "integrating our response so that cooperation and effectiveness, not only within the United Nations family but also beyond it, are maximized".

In his remarks to the meeting sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), Mr. Boutros-Ghali quotes the FAO s estimate that 800 million people are chronically undernourished although the world is quite capable of feeding all its people. "These are shameful facts, but rather than throwing up our hands in horror, we should be spurred to greater action", he says.

While the main responsibility for making food available to their people must rest with the countries themselves, international assistance remains critical for the prevention of hunger and malutrition. The United Nations system, he says, has a key role to play in mobilizing international awareness and concern and contributing to the overall effort.

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The International Conference, to be held from 5 to 11 December, will be attended by Ministers of Agriculture and Health from over 160 countries and will adopt a world declaration on nutrition and a plan of action designed to put nutrition at the forefront of development issues. Pope John Paul II will be the main speaker at tomorrow's opening session.

* * *

In yet another message tomorrow to mark International Volunteer Day, the Secretary-General says the work of individuals will be crucially important in building new structures of international relations.

"The millions of unpaid volunteers across the world who give their time, skills and resources to others to improve the human condition", he says, demonstrate the value of cooperation and solidarity. As one example, he cites the work of the 500 United Nations volunteer specialists currently assisting the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), in preparing for the elections, contributing to development initiatives and restoring the country's health and education systems.

"They are an inspiring model for other committed professionals whose contribution, as volunteers, to peace and development is now so vital", he says.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1284
7 December 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends establishment of United Nations Operation in Mozambique to disarm two sides' forces and provide assistance for multi-party elections next fall; calls for "substantial resources" to be made available, especially on military side.

+ Findings by United Nations Mission visiting Latvia end of October "does not reveal gross and systematic violations of human rights" in that country, says Secretary-General.

+ The 100-Day Action Programme for humanitarian assistance to Somalia "presented only partial success" due to intensified insecurity, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Secretary-General's Special Representative tell follow-up meeting in Addis Ababa.

+ Development aid too often supported military expenditure, which inhibited or delayed economic reforms, Secretary-General tells Conference on Global Development Cooperation, held in Atlanta, Georgia, over the weekend.

+ Russian Federation appeals to leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia to end their "senseless fratricidal war"; calls for immediate, unconditional cease-fire.

+ Third Committee recommends declaration on minorities' rights for adoption by General Assembly.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a report to the Security Council dated 3 December, has recommended the establishment of a United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) to demobilize and disarm the two sides' forces and provide assistance for democratic elections scheduled for next fall, thus ending 14 years of civil war in that country. He said in his report that he felt "obliged to recommend that very substantial resources" be

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made available, especially on the military side. It would "not be possible in Mozambique to create the conditions for a successful election" unless the military situation is brought fully under control, he wrote.

According to his proposal, the Operation would consist of 354 military observers; five logistically self-sufficient infantry battalions, each composed of up to 850 personnel; one engineer battalion; three logistic companies; and air, communications, medical and movement control support units. The Electoral Division would consist of up to 148 international electoral staff, followed by the deployment of up to 1,200 international observers for the elections themselves. An Office of the interim Special Representative for Mozambique would be also be established, as well as an Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to oversee aid to the 3 to 4 million displaced people in Mozambique and an estimated 1.8 million Mozambican refugees, who are expected to return when conditions in the country permit.

In his report, the Secretary-General called the task which the Mozambican Government and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) had asked the United Nations to assume "large and difficult". In the light of recent experiences elsewhere, he wrote, the present recommendations might be thought as inviting the international community "to take a risk". He added however that he believed "the risk is worth taking; but I cannot disguise that it exists".

The Secretary-General appointed at mid-October an Interim Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello of Italy, who went to Maputo together with 21 United Nations military observers to assist RENAMO and the Mozambican Government in working out the details concerning the general peace agreement signed by them on 4 October.

The Special Representative has been able to appoint, despite major violations of the cease-fire at the end of October, the Supervisory and Monitoring Commission consisting of government and RENAMO delegations, with representatives of France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Commission is chaired by the United Nations and has three subcommissions on cease-fire: reintegration; and formation of the Mozambican Defence Forces.
Document S/24892

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The information received and examined by the United Nations Mission while visiting Latvia at the end of October "does not reveal gross and systematic violations of human rights in that country", a report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has found. A summary of his report on the human rights situation in Latvia to the General Assembly was transmitted to the United Nations by the Latvian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Aivars Baumanis, in a letter dated 2 December.

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In the report, the Secretary-General said individual violations which had been reported were "limited and not related to discriminatory policy as such" and could be remedied at the appropriate level. So far, he wrote, no one had as yet been deprived of citizenship and no segment of the population has been disenfranchised. On the other hand, the fear of marginalization by denial of citizenship and of fundamental rights related to it was real and in some cases well founded. That created a situation which was not conducive to harmonious inter-ethnic relations and, as such, posed a potentially destabilizing factor. He encouraged local contacts between Latvia and the Russian authorities in order to seek a peaceful settlement of economic, military and social bilateral problems, including the question of the withdrawal of Russian military forces from Latvia.
Document A/47/748

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The 100-Day Action Programme for humanitarian assistance to Somalia, which the United Nations embarked upon in October, had "presented only partial success" due to intensified insecurity, according to a statement by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat Kittani, delivered over the weekend in Addis Ababa.

The statement said that weaknesses in the programme's implementation still called for a second look at the United Nations' performance and capacities. Emergency relief and recovery efforts had been "restrained by lack of appropriate staff and sometimes bureaucracy and narrow institutional perspectives".

Participants at the two-day follow-up meeting to the 100-Day Action Programme agreed that the key to the eventual recovery of Somalia was the return to the rule of law, order and stability. In that respect, they said, the reduction of arms, particularly the heavy weaponry was fundamental. Participating community leaders gave their firm commitment to collaborate with the United Nations in the disarmament process.

* * *

The problem with development aid was that it often supported military expenditure, which was frequently inhibiting or delaying economic reforms, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Conference on Global Development Cooperation, held at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, over the weekend. He urged that aid flows be used for productive purposes, particularly the development of human, physical and institutional infrastructure.

Calling for a coordinated approach to development aid, he said regional aid might be preferable to bilateral aid in many areas, because it followed practical needs and did not stop at political boundaries. Regional development banks could be the intermediaries between the donors and the countries receiving aid, indicated Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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The Secretary-General said further that development aid must include support for the creation and strengthening of institutions of democracy. Only democratic structures could foster the open intellectual environment that the economics of the new era demanded. Today, he said, economic progress required access to information, right of expression and the necessity for popular participation.

* * *

The Government of the Russian Federation has appealed to the leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia to end their "senseless fratricidal war". Describing the situation in Abkhazia as being on the verge of total breakdown, it called on the parties to the conflict to implement an immediate, unconditional cease-fire and separation of their armed formations. Russia further proposed that the parties to the conflict agree on a transitional "cooling-off period", to provide an opportunity for continued civilized, calm discussion of confidence-building measures.

For its part, the Russian Federation expressed its readiness to continue to act as "an honest and impartial intermediary" in the conflict between the two sides and to help bring international observers into the peace process. It would also continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population in the conflict zone and to promote the economic revival of the area.
S/24895

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The General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) on Friday recommended that the General Assembly adopt a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The proposed declaration states, among other things, that people belonging to such minorities may exercise their rights individually, as well as in community with others without any discrimination, and also that States shall take measures to ensure that people belonging to minorities may exercise their human rights fully without discrimination.

The resolution was one of 15 approved at the meeting, including texts concerning the rights of street children, alternative approaches within the United Nations to human rights issues, periodic elections, the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia and eight drafts on human rights situations in Cuba, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Sudan, Haiti, Myanmar, Iraq and Iran.

In terms of a draft resolution approved without a vote, the Assembly would condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the abhorrent practice of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia and recognize that the Serbian leadership in territories under their control in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Yugoslav Army and the political leadership of Serbia bore primary responsibility for that practice.

(more)

Among the drafts on specific countries, texts were approved calling upon the Government of Cuba to allow full and free access to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation in Cuba; condemning the overthrow of the constitutionally elected President of Haiti, and urging the Government of Myanmar to respect the outcome of the 1990 elections and calling upon it to release the Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other political prisoners.

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in televised message to people of Somalia, says "vast undertaking", including unified military command, is intended to restore hope; asks for their cooperation.

+ Three days of meetings, involving all three parties to conflict in former Yugoslavia, to have begun in Geneva today; UNHCR starts shipment of humanitarian supplies by train to Mostar; Sarajevo airport still closed.

+ About 5,000 refugees, fleeing civil war in Tajikistan, swim across icy Amudar'ya River into Afghanistan in search of food, shelter and safety; another 140,000 displaced are stranded along border with Afghanistan, according to UNHCR.

+ General Assembly calls for continued preparations for 1995 observance of Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations; elects Elizabeth Dowdeswell of Canada Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme.

+ Inventory of weapons, submitted by Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional to United Nations, is found "satisfactory"; action called by Secretary-General an important step towards 15 December deadline for cessation of armed conflict in El Salvador.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a televised message this afternoon to the people of Somalia, said the United Nations, together with unified military command, intended to restore their hope, and he asked for their cooperation in "this vast undertaking".

The people of the world, he said, had been deeply moved by the unique and desperate situation in Somalia and had refused to accept the suffering and death there. "The United Nations is taking action in Somalia in the cause of security, humanitarian relief and political reconciliation", indicated the Secretary-General.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The unified military command arriving in Somalia under the United Nations mandate, he said, was coming "to feed the starving, protect the defenseless and prepare the way for political, economic and social reconstruction". As the effort continued, the United Nations would be working towards long-term solutions for the problems of the country, assured Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman said today that even though the military operation going into Somalia was authorized by the Security Council, the force was not under United Nations command and, therefore, would not be flying the United Nations flag.

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Three days of meetings involving all three parties to the conflict in former Yugoslavia were to begin in Geneva today, according to a statement issued by the spokesman for the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. Participating in today's meetings are the Government delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, headed by Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic; the Bosnian Croat delegation, headed by Mate Boban; and the Bosnian Serb delegation, headed by Radovan Karadzic. Similar meetings are scheduled for tomorrow and Thursday.

The spokesman said the meeting of the Geneva Conference's Steering Committee on 16 December, which has been expanded to include ministerial-level participation, was to be held under the same "basic formula" that was used in London in late August, minus the representatives of former Yugoslavia. About 32 delegations or individuals would be attending, he said, including members of the European Community; the five Permanent Members of the Security Council; three representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE); the "Group of Seven" major economic powers; States neighbouring the former Yugoslavia; representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; Switzerland; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and as an observer, Lord Carrington.

The spokesman further reported that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday had sent the first shipment of humanitarian supplies by train from the port of Ploce to Mostar. This rail line could be used all the way to Sarajevo if two bridges could be repaired, and would be more efficient than either the airlift or road convoys, he added.

In a related development, a United Nations official said today that the situation in Sarajevo was "extremely volatile". It was hoped that the airlift to the city could be resumed, but with the increased level of hostilities, that possibility seemed unlikely.

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About 5,000 Tajik refugees, fleeing an escalating civil war in their homeland, have swum across the icy Amudar'ya River into Afghanistan in search of food, shelter and safety, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported today.

(more)

The refugees began arriving in the northern Afghan provinces of Kunduz and Samangan over the weekend. Officials of the UNHCR in Afghanistan who interviewed the new arrivals described them as being very hungry, cold and in miserable condition. They told the UNHCR and local Afghan authorities that about 200 fellow Tajiks had died while crossing the river.

According to the UNHCR, the new arrivals were part of some 140,000 internally displaced Tajiks, some of whom having been stranded shelterless for about two weeks in Koshma, along the Central Asian Republic's southern border with Afghanistan. The Agency said hundreds of thousands of Tajiks had fled their villages and towns because of the civil war pitting rival clans and ethnic factions in Tajikistan, the poorest of the former Soviet Republics suffering from acute shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recently dispatched a mission to support regional efforts at peace-making and peace-keeping, and to evaluate the humanitarian assistance needs in Tajikistan.

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The General Assembly this morning authorized the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations to continue considering proposals for suitable activities in connection with that observance in 1995. It noted the Committee's work during the past year and called upon it to report to the Assembly again next year.

Also this morning, the Assembly elected Elizabeth Dowdeswell of Canada as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1993.

The Assembly concluded its discussion on the situation in Central America and the Secretary-General's report on efforts to promote peace, freedom, democracy and development in the region. Introducing a draft resolution on the situation in Central America on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, the representative of Nicaragua expressed regret that the Secretary-General's report had been so limited in scope and called for a revised text.

The representative of the United States said that, with Central America so close to ending all its internal conflicts, the stage was set for rapid progress in reducing the size of military budgets, regional integration on the basis of free and open trading regimes, and structural reforms that would allow for the redistribution of national resources to productive investment.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali informed yesterday the Government of El Salvador that the detailed inventory of weapons, presented last week by the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), had been analyzed and "found satisfactory". According to his Spokesman today, the Secretary-General said

the inventory, together with the fact that the destruction of the weapons it listed had already begun, were "important steps towards the completion of the process of the cessation of the armed conflict in El Salvador on 15 December 1992".

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